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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/671,044	09/24/2003	Tateo Kawamura	JP920020131US1	6706
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SAMUEL A. KASSATLY LAW OFFICE			PESIN, BORIS M	
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SAN JOSE, CA 95120			PAPER NUMBER	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/671,044	KAWAMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Boris Pesin	2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3 and 7-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chang et al. (US 2004/0119740).

In regards to claim 1, Chang teaches a document display system, comprising:
document storage means for storing a group of documents exchanged via a network
(See Figure 8); related information storage means for storing related information in the
group of documents stored in the document storage means (i.e. *"The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey."* Paragraph [0032]);
and display document generation means for forming a section group and for
generating a display document by embedding a document read from the document
storage means into a section that is a component of the section group (i.e. *"The display module 210 is configured to format the received electronic message based on instructions from the control module 250. In one embodiment, the control module 250*

instructs the display module 210 to generate the displayed electronic message. The displayed electronic message may include content of the received electronic message with selected portions elided in response to header module 220, the repeated text module 230, the signature module 260, and/or the elision module 270. In one embodiment, the display module 210 is configured to generate a plurality of displayed electronic messages which correspond to a plurality of received electronic messages."

Paragraph [0036]).

In regards to claim 2, Chang teaches a system according to claim 1, wherein the display document generation means forms the section group by embedding a document header and a level indicating a depth of hierarchy from a main document (See Figure 8).

In regards to claim 3, Chang teaches a system according to claim 1, wherein the related information storage means stores information of a parent document related to the document read from the document storage means (i.e. "*The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey.*" Paragraph [0032]).

In regards to claim 7, Chang teaches a document display method comprising: acquiring related information between documents in a thread from a storage device (i.e. "*The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play*

hockey." Paragraph [0032]); generating a section group based on the related information acquired from the storage device in a virtual document (i.e. *"The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey."* Paragraph [0032]); reading a document corresponding to a given section which is a component of the section group from the storage device (i.e. *"The display module 210 is configured to format the received electronic message based on instructions from the control module 250. In one embodiment, the control module 250 instructs the display module 210 to generate the displayed electronic message. The displayed electronic message may include content of the received electronic message with selected portions elided in response to header module 220, the repeated text module 230, the signature module 260, and/or the elision module 270. In one embodiment, the display module 210 is configured to generate a plurality of displayed electronic messages which correspond to a plurality of received electronic messages."* Paragraph [0036]); and embedding the read document into the given section and adding the read document to a display document (i.e. *"The display module 210 is configured to format the received electronic message based on instructions from the control module 250. In one embodiment, the control module 250 instructs the display module 210 to generate the displayed electronic message. The displayed electronic message may include content of the received electronic message with selected portions elided in response to header module 220, the repeated text module 230, the signature module 260, and/or the*

elision module 270. In one embodiment, the display module 210 is configured to generate a plurality of displayed electronic messages which correspond to a plurality of received electronic messages." Paragraph [0036]).

In regards to claim 8, Chang teaches a method according to claim 7, wherein the section group is generated from a group of documents exchanged via a network (i.e. *"The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey."* Paragraph [0032]).

In regards to claim 9, Chang teaches a method according to claim 7, wherein the documents in the thread comprise a collection of documents that are not scheduled for editing The method according to claim 7, wherein the documents in the thread comprise a collection of documents that are not scheduled for editing.

In regards to claim 10, Chang teaches a method according to claim 7, wherein acquiring the related information between documents in the thread comprises extracting a relation between documents as a tree structure; and wherein generating the section group in the virtual document comprises generating the section group by using the extracted tree structure (i.e. *"The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey."* Paragraph [0032] and Figure 8).

In regards to claim 11, Chang teaches a document display method comprising: combining documents exchanged via a network (i.e. *"The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey."* Paragraph [0032] and Figure 8); storing headers of the combined documents into a memory (i.e. *"The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey."* Paragraph [0032] and Figure 8); keeping a relation between the combined documents (i.e. *"The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey."* Paragraph [0032] and Figure 8); storing a given document corresponding to a given header stored in the memory along with the relation between the combined documents into the memory (i.e. *"The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey."* Paragraph [0032] and Figure 8); and outputting a content stored in the memory as a display document (i.e. *"The display module 210 is configured to format the received electronic message based on instructions from the control module 250. In one embodiment, the control module 250 instructs the display module 210 to generate the*

displayed electronic message. The displayed electronic message may include content of the received electronic message with selected portions elided in response to header module 220, the repeated text module 230, the signature module 260, and/or the elision module 270. In one embodiment, the display module 210 is configured to generate a plurality of displayed electronic messages which correspond to a plurality of received electronic messages." Paragraph [0036]).

In regards to claim 12, Chang teaches a method according to claim 11, wherein storing the headers of the combined documents into the memory comprises generating a section group having a tree structure in a virtual document (See Figure 8).

In regards to claim 13, Chang teaches a method according to claim 12, wherein storing the given document into the memory comprises storing a content of the given document corresponding to the section group along with the tree structure (i.e. "*The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey.*" Paragraph [0032] and Figure 8).

Claim 14 is in the same scope as claim 7; therefore it is rejected under similar rationale.

In regards to claim 15, Chang teaches a computer program product according to claim 14, further comprising a fifth set of instruction codes for storing the related information between the documents into a storage device structure (i.e. "*The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into*

an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey." Paragraph [0032] and Figure 8).

In regards to claim 16, Chang teaches a computer program product according to claim 14, wherein the first set of instruction codes acquires the related information between the documents in the thread by extracting a relation of the documents as a tree structure (i.e. *"The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey."* Paragraph [0032] and Figure 8).

In regards to claim 17, Chang teaches a computer program product according to claim 16, wherein the second set of instruction codes generates the section group in the virtual document by generating the section group having the extracted tree structure (See Figure 8).

In regards to claim 18, Chang teaches a computer program product according to claim 17, wherein the fourth set of instruction codes adds the document to the display document by adding the document along with the tree structure (i.e. *"The display module 210 is configured to format the received electronic message based on instructions from the control module 250. In one embodiment, the control module 250 instructs the display module 210 to generate the displayed electronic message. The displayed electronic message may include content of the received electronic message with selected portions elided in response to header module 220, the repeated text*

module 230, the signature module 260, and/or the elision module 270. In one embodiment, the display module 210 is configured to generate a plurality of displayed electronic messages which correspond to a plurality of received electronic messages."

Paragraph [0036]).

Claim 19 is similar in scope to claim 11; therefore it is rejected under similar rationale.

In regards to claim 20, Chang teaches a program product according to claim 19, wherein the first set of instruction codes stores the headers of the documents into the memory by generating a section group having a tree structure in a virtual document (See Figure 8); and wherein the second set of instruction codes stores the document into the memory by storing a content of the document corresponding to a given section along with the tree structure (i.e. *"The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey."* Paragraph [0032] and Figure 8).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang et al. (US 2004/0119740) in view of Yeager (US 6167402).

In regards to claim 1, Chang teaches a document display system, comprising: a message storage unit for storing messages forming a thread (i.e. "*The thread detection module 240 is configured to categorize the received electronic message into an appropriate thread. For example, the received message may be part of a thread which relates to choosing a time among multiple people to play hockey.*" Paragraph [0032]); wherein the display document generation unit is used to invoke the given message from the message storage unit and to add the given message to a display document by embedding the given message into the section (i.e. "*The display module 210 is configured to format the received electronic message based on instructions from the control module 250. In one embodiment, the control module 250 instructs the display module 210 to generate the displayed electronic message. The displayed electronic message may include content of the received electronic message with selected portions elided in response to header module 220, the repeated text module 230, the signature module 260, and/or the elision module 270. In one embodiment, the display module*

210 is configured to generate a plurality of displayed electronic messages which correspond to a plurality of received electronic messages.” Paragraph [0036]).

Chang does not specifically teach an index storage unit for storing index information on a thread composition in the messages; and a display document generation unit for generating a section corresponding to the index information by fetching an index of a given message from the index storage unit. Yeager teaches, “The index thread begins storing index information in the index directories and files once the write thread is done writing to the message store.” (Column 15, Line 4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Chang with the teachings of Yeager and include an index storage unit for storing index information with the motivation to provide the user with a high performance message store.

In regards to claim 5, Chang and Yeager teach all the limitations of claim 4. They further teach a system further comprising an expansion condition storage unit for storing an expansion condition of the message, wherein the display document generation unit generates a section by fetching an expansion condition of the given message from the expansion condition storage unit (Chang, Figure 8, Elements 830 840 and 845).

In regards to claim 6, Chang and Yeager teach all the limitations of claim 4. They further teach a system comprising a user interactive processing unit for accepting an expansion request to a header from a user, wherein the display document generation unit is used to add the given message to the display document on the basis

of the expansion request accepted by the user interactive processing unit (Chang, Figure 8, Elements 830 840 and 845).

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Boris Pesin whose telephone number is (571) 272-4070. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday except every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BP

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